

Mosquito and Tick Control

A Comprehensive Mosquito Control Program includes:

- 1. Source reduction through citizen education**
- 2. Mosquito avoidance through citizen education**
- 3. Source reduction through enforcement action**
- 4. Larval control by use of insecticides**
- 5. Surveillance of adult mosquitoes**
- 6. Adult control by contact sprays and fogging at or near breeding sites**
- 7. Adult control by residential Fogging (Adulticiding/Spraying)**

Residential Fogging priority:

The decision of which residential areas to be fogged (adulticided/sprayed) will be based upon the **best available information through surveillance of adult mosquitoes**. Fogging will **not** be based upon the number of complaints from any given area. Instead each complaint will be investigated and a determination will be made based upon the investigation. The fogging priority is as follows:

First - Areas with suspected human cases or risk of mosquito related disease and high numbers of mosquitoes. (*Ochlerotatus triseriatus*, *Aedes albopictus*, *Culex pipiens*)

Second - Areas known through mosquito sampling to have high numbers of potential vector mosquitoes (*Ochlerotatus triseriatus*, *Aedes albopictus*, *Culex pipiens*)

Third - Areas known through mosquito sampling, complaint investigation, and larviciding visits to have high numbers of biting mosquitoes.

Fourth - Areas which due to their location, special nature, or because of special events will have a high number of people in an outdoor setting which will put those people at risk of being bitten by mosquitoes.

The Mosquito Program attempts to utilize the safest effective insect control materials that are available. The Health Department has and will be using Malathion, for most adult mosquito control. Fogging is conducted in the morning from the hours of 4:00 A.M. until shortly after sunrise. Malathion is one of the safest and most effective adulticides available.

Should I Take Steps to Reduce Exposure to Pesticides During Mosquito Control Spraying (Fogging)?

Generally, there is no need to relocate during mosquito control spraying. The pesticides have been evaluated for this use and found to pose minimal risks to human health and the environment when used according to label directions. For example, EPA has estimated the exposure and risks to both adults and children posed by ULV aerial and ground applications of the insecticides malathion and naled. For all the exposure scenarios considered, exposures ranged from 100 to 10,000 times below an amount of pesticide that might pose a health concern. These estimates assumed several spraying events over a period of weeks, and also assumed that a toddler would ingest some soil and grass in addition to dermal exposure. Other mosquito control pesticides pose similarly low risks. (For more details on health and environmental risk considerations, see the separate EPA fact sheets on the specific mosquito control pesticides.) Although mosquito control pesticides pose low risks, some people may prefer to avoid or further minimize exposure. Some common sense steps to help reduce possible exposure to pesticides include:

- Check this website frequently for the planned locations where spraying (fogging) is to occur and remain indoors during applications in the immediate area.
- People who suffer from chemical sensitivities or feel spraying may aggravate a preexisting health condition, may consult their physician or local health department and take special measures to avoid exposure.
- Close windows and turn off window-unit air conditioners when spraying is taking place in the immediate area.
- Do not let children play near or behind truck-mounted applicators when they are in use.